

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EB:JMDERHAM

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S/S-O:J. HOGANSON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243370

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 243370 SENT CARACAS DATED OCT 11.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243370

STADIS

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE
FOREIGN MINISTER OF VENEZUELA

1. THE SECRETARY HOSTED CORDIAL, HOUR AND ONE-HALF
LUNCHEON WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR ON OCTOBER 9.
TOPICS INCLUDED HEMISPHERIC STABILITY, PETROLEUM NATIONALI-
ZATPON, SOLUTION TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THE
PANAMA CANAL TREATY, AND THE SECRETARY'S CARACAS TRIP PLANS.
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ALSO PARTICIPATING WERE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US

MIGUEL ANGEL BURELLI RIVAS, ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS, INTERPRETER ANTHONY HERVAS, AND DESK OFFICER SONANDRES.

2. ESCOVAR OPENED THE SUBSTANTIVE PART OF THE CONVERSATION, SAYING THAT THE SECRETARY'S POLICIES WERE CONSTRUCTIVE AND PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN LATIN AMERICAN-US RELATIONS. THE SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT HE PREFERRED BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH KEY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS VENEZUELA AND, IN RETROSPECT, THAT HE IS NOT SORRY OVER THE CANCELLATION OF THE MARCH BUENOS AIRES MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE NEW DIALOGUE, HE CONTINUED, WAS

PROBABLY ILL-CONCEIVED, SINCE IT WAS SET IN MULTIATERAL CONTEXT WHERE, THE LATIN AMERICANS CAN ONLY AGREE IN DISAGREEING WITH US.

3. ESCOVAR IN AN EXTENDED REPLY SAID HE HAD READ THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO THE LATIN AMERICAN MINISTERS AT THE UN AND NOTED WITH INTEREST HIS NEW EMPHASIS IN US POLICY (RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL NATIONS). HE SAID THAT HISTORICALLY LATINS HAVE WORRIED THAT THE US FOLLOWED A POLICY OF "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" TOWARD LA NATIONS. BUT LATINS HAVE ALSO SEEN A TENDENCY FOR AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS TO OVERSIMPLIFY RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND APPROACH THE AREA AS A WHOLE. WHILE WELCOMING THE US RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO DEAL WITH LA COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY, ESCOVAR SAID, THE US SHOULD ALSO SEEK WAYS TO AVOID HISTORIC WORRIES ABOUT OUR SEEKING TO DIVIDE AND CONQUER. ESCOVAR SAID THE US COULD ASSURE LATINS BY SUPPORTING INTEGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA. THE US SHOULD SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS SELA (LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM) WHICH COULD BE A MORE EFFECTIVE VEHICLE FOR INTEGRATION THAN THE ANDEAN PACT OR LAFTA WHICH WERE INEFFICIENT AND BURDENED BY TOO MUCH RHETORIC AND TOO MANY PRINCIPLES. SELA COULD BE PRAGMATIC AND WOULD NOT BE AGAINST THE US. THE SECRETARY INDICATED WE DID NOT OPPOSE LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION EFFORTS OR SELA. INDEED WE SUPPORT INTEGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA.

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4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE US AND VENEZUELA COULD COLLABORATE IN DIFFERENT AREAS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICA WHERE BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE A COMMON STAKE IN PROMOTING STABILITY. HE REFERRED TO COLLABORATION IN SUPPORT OF BOLIVIA'S EFFORTS WITH CHILE AND PERU TO ACHIEVE ACCESS TO THE SEA; TO HIS RECENT TRIP TO ARGENTINA WHERE HE BECAME CONVINCED THAT THE ARGENTINE LEADERS THEMSELVES ARE GREATLY DESIROUS OF BRINGING ABOUT

INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY; TO BRAZIL WHERE VENEZUELA IS DEVELOPING CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS; AND TO PANAMA WHERE VENEZUELA WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL TO THE US IN ITS EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A NEW CANAL TREATY.

5. ESCOVAR RAISED THE ISSUE OF ENERGY AND OPEC, ASKING FOR THE US VIEW. THE SECRETARY SAID THE IEA AND MORE INTENSE BILATERAL CONTACTS MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION TO THE ENERGY PROBLEMS, BUT THAT THE ANNUAL CRISIS OVER PRICE INCREASES COULD NOT CONTINUE WITHOUT A COUNTERREACTION. ESCOVAR SAID THAT OPEC PRODUCERS VIEWED RECENT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY STATEMENTS AS THREATS, BUT BELIEVED THAT THE PROPER CHANNEL FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE WAS THE PARIS PREPCON AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE AGREED AND HOPED THAT THE US AND VENEZUELA COULD CONSULT CLOSELY AT AND PRIOR TO THESE MEETINGS.

6. ESCOVAR RAISED A NUMBER OF OTHER THEMES DURING LUNCHEON. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE VENEZUELA ATTRIBUTES TO DEMOCRACY. HE SAID INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM REQUIRES INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS.

7. THE SECRETARY SAID WE ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE A PANAMA CANAL TREATY, BUT NOT UNTIL 1977 BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE US. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE AND PROGRESS IN THE MEANTIME. ESCOVAR AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE SAYING THAT WE CANNOT LET THE CANAL QUESTION GET OUT OF HAND. HE SAID VENEZUELA COULD HELP AND INDICATED HE WOULD CONVEY THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS TO PRESIDENT PEREZ. BOTH CONCURRED IN THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT JEOPARDIZING PROGRESS TOWARD A FINAL TREATY.

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8. REFERRING TO THE VENEZUELAN NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM COMPANIES, ESCOVAR SAID THE GOV HAD HOPED THAT THE PROCESS WOULD BE PAINLESS TO US-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS. THE VENEZUELAN HAD "APPLIED CONSIDERABLE ANESTHESIA". SINCE ESCOVAR RAISED THE SUBJECT, THE SECRETARY SAID HE WANTED TO STRESS THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE USG TO GET OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN US ENTERPRISES AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. IN THE VENEZUELA CASE, THE SECRETARY SAID, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE SMALLER PRODUCERS ARE GOING TO RECEIVE LESS THAN THE LARGER ONES. THIS COULD CAUSE US PROBLEMS AT HOME. THE LESS ABRASIVE THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE THE BETTER FOR OUR LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP. THE SECRETARY SAID HE THEREFORE HAD INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN TO SEE PRESIDENT PEREZ ON THESE MATTERS. ESCOVAR DID NOT RESPOND.

9. AT ANOTHER POINT, THE SECRETARY REFERRED TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE US POSITION ON RAW MATERIAL ISSUES HAD MOVED. HE OBSERVED THAT HIS MAY NOT BE THE POSITION DESIRED BY THE THIRD WORLD, BUT IT IS AS FAR AS WE CAN GO AT THE MOMENT IN THE LIGHT OF DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS.

10. WITH REGARD TO HIS LATIN AMERICAN TRIP THE SECRETARY ASKED IF ESCOVAR WOULD PREFER NOVEMBER OR JANUARY, NOTING THAT HE WAS LEANING TOWARD NOVEMBER- ESCOVAR RESPONDED THAT EITHER DATE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WOULD FORWARD A FORMAL PROPOSAL ON THIS WITHIN TEN DAYS.

11. THE MEETING CONCLUDED ON CORDIAL NOTE. THE SECRETARY INVITED ESCOVAR TO CALL ON HIM ANY TIME AND SENT HIS PERSONAL REGARDS TO PRESIDENT PEREZ. ESCOVAR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THESE MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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